the escalation of cost resulted due to following reasons:—

(i) New high technology features developed abroad during the progress of the project had to be absorbed in the system.

(ii) Additional requirements projected by the users had to be incorporated.

(iii) More than one alternative technical approaches had to be followed concurrently.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) The production progress is being monitored by a high level 'Project Manegement Board' under the Chairmanship of Raksha Rajya Mantri.

Sale of Defence Land in Hyderabad

2592. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that defence land in Hyderabad/Secunderabad cantonment is being sold away to civilians, while building of quarters for non-family stationed wives has been shifted to outside the city limits, this causing hardship to them; and

(b) if so, how much of such land has been sold away to civilians?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI D. L. BAITHA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Dots not arise.

Inquiry into controversial land transaction in Karnataka

2593. SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI:

SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have set up a commission of inquiry to investigate into the controversial land transactions in Karnataka;

(b) whether Government are aware of the reports regarding the efforts made by former Chief Minister of Karnataka, to stall the Kuldip Singh Judicial inquiry, set up to enquire into certain land deals;

(c) if so, what are the details thereof and the steps taken by Gavernment to speed up the enquiry; and

(d) whether Government propose to set up such a Commission of inquiry regarding the dereservation of 285 plots and handing over those plots only to private builders in Bombay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Three writ petitions have been filed by Ravajeethu Builders and Developers, Shri J. Srinivasa Reddy and Shri A. Laxmisagar in the High Court of Karnataka at Bangalore Challenging the setting up of Kuldip Singh Commission of Inquiry and requesting for stay of the proceedings of the Commission. Government is, however, not aware of reports regarding efforts allegedly made by former Chief Minister of Karnataka to stall the inquiry. Action is being taken to contest the writ petitions filed in Karnataka High Court.

(d) There is no such proposal.

Bench mark criterion for promotion of officers in higher grade

2594. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state whether Government are aware that the new Bench Mark Criterion, being adopted for promotion of officers in higher grade/service is a potent, with many serious repercussions of longstanding nature, because of inherent administrative problems like diverse nature of job responsibilities in Civil Administrations, highly sensitive assignment as well as totally non-sensitive assignments, different assignment standard and different